

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 COME-00 LAB-04 DOTE-00 CEA-01

STR-04 EPA-01 SS-15 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PRS-01 L-02 /053 W
----- 112398

R 041100Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9179

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 4425

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EGEN JA
SUBJ: ECONCOM X: DISCUSSIONS WITH GOJ ON TIMING

REF: STATE 076167

1. WE MET WITH FUKADA (DEPUTY DG, AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU, FONOFF) APRIL 4 TO SEEK CONFIRMATION THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AGREED, IN LIGHT EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION OF ECONCOM SCHEDULING LAST WEEK IN U.S. DURING PLANNING TALKS, THAT HEAVY SCHEDULE OF VISITS OBLIGES NEED FOR ECONCOM AT THIS TIME. FUKADA NOTED HE HAD SPOKEN WITH YOSHINA SHORTLY BEFORE OUR CALL AND HAD WITH HIM REPORT ON DISCUSSION OF THE MATTER IN US.

2. FUKADA SAID THERE APPEARED TO BE SOME MISUNDERSTANDING. JAPANESE REPS DURING BREAK AT PLANNING TALKS WERE EXPRESSIONG PURELY PERSONAL VIEWS AS THEY HAD NO AUTHORIZATION TO CHANGE OFFICIAL POSITION OF FOREIGN MINISTRY AS CONVEYED TO AMB HODGSON BY MIYAZAWA MARCH 18. FUKADA SAID WE BOTH SEEMED TO BE FACED WITH AN AWKWARD SITUATION BUT ONE WHICH SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE TOO DIFFICULT TO RESOLVE. GOJ POSITION ALL ALONG HAS BEEN THAT INITIATIVE SHOULD COME FROM US SIDE AS SCHEDULED HOST COUNTRY FOR ECONCOM X. MEETING CLEARLY CANNOT TAKE PLACE IF DATE MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH

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SIDES CANNOT BE WORKED OUT. GOJ WOULD CERTAINLY NOT

PRESS US TO CONVENE ECONCOM AT ANY PARTICULAR DATE IF
US CONSIDERED THERE WERE GOOD REASONS FOR NOT SCHEDULING
AT THIS TIME.

3. ONLY PROBLEM FUKADA ANTICIPATED WAS HOW MIYAZAWA
WOULD HANDLE JAPANESE PRESS WHEN WORD THAT ECONCOM
IS OFF FOR TIME BEING BECOMES PUBLIC. FUKADA SAID
MIYAZAWA IS A BIT OUT ON LIMB HAVING TOLD PRESS GOJ
FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD ECONCOM IN EARLY FALL IN
RESPONSE US INQUIRY WHETHER GOJ WOULD FIND THIS CONVENIENT.
PERSISTENT JAPANESE PRESS CORPS LIKELY TO PROBE FOR
EXPLANATION OF WHAT HAPPENED IN PAST FEW WEEKS TO
CHANGE SITUATION SINCE PATTERN OF PROSPECTIVE JAPANESE
VISITS TO US AND ABSENCE OF SERIOUS US-JAPAN BILATERAL
ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WERE PRETTY WELL KNOWN IN MID-MARCH.
WE RESPONDED TO THIS BY CONFIRMING THAT OUR PRESENTATION
TODAY WAS BASED ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF FURTHER VIEWS
ON ECONCOM

4. FUKADA SAID MIYAZAWA WOULD BE BRIEFED ON SITUATION
APRIL 5 AS PART OF PREPARATION FOR HIS WASHINGTON
VISIT. MEETING ENDED CORDIALLY WITH FUKADA ASSURING
US THIS WAS NOT RPT NOT A BIG PROBLEM.

5. EMBASSY COMMENT. WE BELIEVE THIS CAN BE HANDLED
WITHOUT DIFFICULTY NEXT WEEK. IF SECRETARY TAKES
LEAD IN SUGGESTING REALISTIC LOOK AT NUMBER OF VISITS
INDICATES CIRCUIT IS OVERLOADED FOR FALL, WE BELIEVE
MIYAZAWA WILL QUICKLY AGREE.
SHOESMITH

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